

Published: Sept. 28, 2016, *Kokomo Tribune* [Page: A4]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/opinion/house_of_burgess/house-of-burgess-cruz-and-vichy-republicans/article_165491a6-8577-11e6-b4d3-838b0753f8bc.html



KT photo | **Tim Bath**

House of Burgess: Cruz and 'Vichy Republicans'

Texas senator, former rival endorses Trump

By Rob Burgess
Tribune columnist

June 12, documentarian Ken Burns delivered the commencement speech at Stanford University and introduced me to an all-to-apt phrase to describe a regrettable feature of this election cycle. The speech as a whole was a historic dressing down of Republican (then nominee, now candidate) Donald Trump.

“Many honorable people, including the last two Republican presidents, members of the party of Abraham Lincoln, have declined to support him,” said Burns. “And I implore those ‘Vichy Republicans’ who have endorsed him to please, please reconsider.”

Though Burns did not coin this phrase, he certainly helped to popularize it. In his March 13 Washington Post column, Pulitzer Prize-winning conservative columnist George Will described “Vichy Republicans” as “collaborationists coming to terms with the occupation of their party.”

As I wrote in my May 11 column — “Which side are you on, GOP?” — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, former Vice President Dick Cheney, Kentucky Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, 1996 nominee Bob Dole and many others all fall into this category. Though, it should be noted, a precious few, including the Bush family and 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, have decided not to support Trump just because he has an “R” next to his name.

And then, there’s Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump has questioned Cruz’s citizenship; implicated his father, Rafael, in the murder of President John F. Kennedy; and insulted the appearance of his wife, Heidi. A search for every mention of Cruz on Trump’s Twitter account, and Trump on Cruz’s, reveals: Trump called Cruz “Lyn’ Ted,”

“wacko,” “weak and desperate,” “fraud,” “wiseguy,” “cheater,” “nervous wreck,” “hypocrite,” “dishonest” and “sleazy.” Cruz called Trump a “classless,” “big government liberal,” “coward,” who is “putting on an act,” is not “a real man” and “fails the presidential test.”

Despite all this, Cruz announced his endorsement of Trump Friday afternoon on his Facebook page.

“This election is unlike any other in our nation’s history,” he wrote. “Like many other voters, I have struggled to determine the right course of action in this general election. In Cleveland [during the July 18 to 21 Republican National Convention,] I urged voters, ‘please, don’t stay home in November. Stand, and speak, and vote your conscience, vote for candidates up and down the ticket whom you trust to defend our freedom and to be faithful to the Constitution.’ After many months of careful consideration, of prayer and searching my own conscience, I have decided that on Election Day, I will vote for the Republican nominee, Donald Trump.”

Cruz’s Cleveland speech was notable for its lack of endorsement of Trump.

“That pledge was not a blanket commitment that if you go and slander and attack Heidi, that I’m going to nonetheless come like a servile puppy dog and say thank you very much for maligning my wife and my father,” he said in a speech the night after his RNC address.

Back then, Trump said he didn’t want his endorsement anyway.

“If he gives it, I will not accept it,” he said during a July 22 speech.

How things have changed.

“I am greatly honored by the endorsement of Sen. Cruz,” read a Trump statement Friday. “We have fought the battle and he was a tough and brilliant opponent.”

Now, Cruz sounds like a broken man.

“I have spent several months thinking about it, praying about the right course of action, and I’ve discussed the right course of action with both Heidi and my dad, both of whom I love with all my heart,” Cruz told The Texas Tribune’s Patrick Svitek on Friday. “And all three of us have decided to forgive the past.”

Cruz is the ultimate “Vichy Republican” but with no sense of timing.

Gov. Mike Pence previously had endorsed Cruz before the primary. After Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich dropped out after the Indiana primary, Pence dutifully switched his allegiance. He’s now Trump’s running mate. If you’re going to sell your soul, at least get a fair price.

Rob Burgess, Tribune city editor, may be reached by calling 765-454-8577, via email at rob.burgess@kokomotribune.com or on Twitter at twitter.com/robaburg.

